

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABU DH 00596 070418Z

61

ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 H-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SAB-01 EB-07 /062 W

----- 033858

R 070315Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4036

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0596

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP(SMION, WILLIAM E.)

SUBJ: ASSESSMENT OF SIMON VISIT TO UAE MARCH 4

1. SECRETARY SIMON PAID HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL ONE-DAY VISIT TO ABU DHABI MARCH 4. MAJOR VALUE OF STOP HERE WAS DEMONSTRATION IT PROVIDED OF HIGH-LEVEL USG INTEREST IN ITS RELATIONS WITH UAE. PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THIS WAS FIRST VISIT TO UAE BY AMERICAN CABINET OFFICER, VISIT HAD MAJOR IMPACT. SHAIKH ZAYED AND HIS MINISTERS WERE PLEASED AND FLATTERED BY THIS MANIFESTATION OF ATTENTION FROM WASHINGTON, AND BOTH POWER OF SIMON DELEGATION, AND FACT THAT THIS WAS ONLY GULF STOP HE MADE ON THIS TRIP, WERE ADDITIONAL FACTORS THAT ENHANCED IMPACT OF VISIT.

2. AT MEETINGS SECRETARY HAD HERE, HE AND MEMBERS OF HIS PARTY EFFECTIVELY OUTLINED MAIN LINES UPON WHICH WE BELIEVED US-UAE BILATERAL RELATIONS MIGHT BE STRENGTHENED. WHILE UAE SIDE ON THIS OCCASION DID NOT TAKE UP ANY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS, THEY WERE CLEARLY RECEPTIVE IN MORE GENERAL TERMS AND WE BELIEVE SECRETARY'S VISIT HAS HELPED LAY GROUNDWORK FOR PURSUIT OF THESE POSSIBILITIES. ON TECHNICAL SERVICES SIDE, SHAIKH ZAYED INDICATED HE BELIEVED THIS WAS VERY PROMISING AREA OF COOPERATION AND, WHEN SECRETARY INFORMED HIM OF BERGER TEAM ARRIVAL, HE EXTENDED ENTHUSIASTIC WELCOME. ON COORDINATION

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OF OUR EFFORTS TO HELP LDC'S, UAE SIDE AS EXPECTED INDICATED IT

PREFERRED CASE-BY-CASE APPROACH, BUT MADE IT CLEAR IT WELCOMED SUCH COORDINATION AND LOOKED FORWARD TO RECEIVING FROM USG SPECIFIC PROJECT SUGGESTIONS.

3. AT NO POINT DURING DISCUSSIONS DID UAEG INDICATE ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEMS WITH US POLICY. SECRETARY WAS NOT TAXED ABOUT US POLICY ON ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM. BOYCOTT ISSUE WAS NOT RAISED. NOTING THAT 63 PERCENT OF ABU DHABI GOVERNMENT'S PORTFOLIO WAS NOW INVESTED IN US (MOSTLY EQUITIES), MINISTER HABROUSH SAID SIZE OF US MARKET OFFERED OPPORTUNITIES AND SECURITY FOR INVESTMENT NOT FOUND ELSEWHERE. HE CONFIRMED PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDING WITH EMBASSY THAT ABU DHABI WOULD CONSULT WITH USG IF IT PROPOSED TO BUY MAJOR SHARE OF ANY US FIRM THAT MIGHT POSE PUBLIC PROBLEMS FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS. HABROUSH SAID HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE SUCH PURCHASES IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE.

4. VISIT WAS GIVEN MASSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE ON SCALE USUALLY RESERVED FOR CHIEFS OF STATE. COVERAGE ENTIRELY FAVORABLE. STERNER

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